

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-110003  
**Dated: August, 2023**

To,

**Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of West Bengal,  
Aranya Bhawan, Block LA-10A,  
Sector-III, Salt Lake,  
Kolkata- 700106

**Subject: Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Coal Mining Project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited proposal and to convey that the instant proposal has been considered by Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 17.07.2023. The detailed minutes of the meeting are available on PARIVESH portal at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).

2. The Advisory Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with Nodal officer (FCA), West Bengal and concerned Dy. Director General of Forest(C), Regional Office. After going through the facts of the proposal and the report of the sub-committee constituted on the recommendation of AC by Ministry on 24.04.2023, the Advisory Committee observed that:

- i. The revised mining plan for the instant proposal is yet to be approved by the Ministry of Coal. In view of this, the land use needs be revised and their details with map are to be uploaded on PARIVESH portal.
- ii. The safety zone along the periphery of the proposed mining area has not been marked by the user agency.
- iii. The user agency has not explored the possibilities of identifying the dumping areas outside the forest area.
- iv. The reply on Ministry's letter dated 24.04.2023, as sought on the recommendation of AC on 24.03.2023, has not yet been received from Govt. of West Bengal.
- v. The Ministry vide its letter dated 20.06.2023 shared the sub-committee report with Government of West Bengal with a request for providing para-wise comments. The same was also not provided by the State Government.

3. Keeping in view the above observations, the recommendation of the Advisory

Committee and with the approval of the competent authority, it has been decided that the proposal cannot be acceded to in present proposition and the same is therefore rejected. The User agency will however be at liberty to submit the complete proposal *de-novo*.

Yours faithfully,

**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
2. The Deputy Director General of Forest (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Sub- Office of MoEF&CC, Kolkata
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF (HoFF), Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.